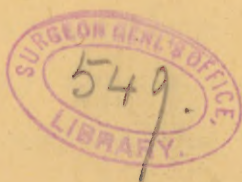
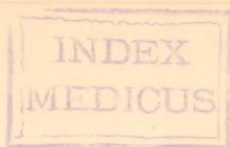


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Removal of ingrowing
toe-nail x x x x x







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Removal of Ingrowing Toe-Nail. — A Simplified Operation by Means of a New Instrument.

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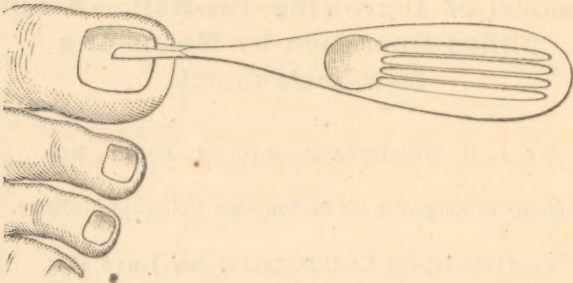
Read before the St. Louis Medical Society, June 8, 1895.

The operation on the ingrowing toe nail which I wish to describe is one in which it is necessary, on account of the condition of the soft parts, to remove a portion of the toe nail, either combined with excision of the overlying soft parts or not, as the case may be. It is not necessary to enter into the causes of ingrowing toe-nail, nor the indications for operative interferences, as these are generally well understood.

Although the operation for ingrowing toe-nail is one of the simplest in surgery, it is one with which a good deal of pain is connected, and in most cases it is necessary to give an anesthetic or cocainize the parts. Any one who has carried out the operation as ordinarily de-



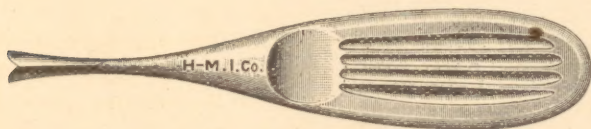
scribed, by means of the scissors, scalpel and dressing forceps, can readily understand why it is painful, when he takes into consideration the amount of gouging, digging, pulling and tearing that is indulged in to remove as simple a thing as a nail.



Let us see for a moment, how the operation is ordinarily done. The first step usually, is to slit the nail from the free border through to the root by means of a scalpel or scissors. This first step is the most brutal part of the operation, and the amount of gouging the sensitive matrix receives can readily be imagined, and, without an anesthetic, is worse than pulling a tooth. The second step is to free, from its bed or matrix, the portion of the nail that is to be removed, so that it can be seized with a dressing forceps and evulsed. The second step is also a very painful procedure and is done with scissors or scalpel. The third step is to seize the

partly freed portion of nail with a pair of dressing forceps and evulse it. This, practically, is the operation for ingrowing toe-nails, modified, if necessary, by removal, in aggravated cases, of a portion of the overhanging soft parts.

For the operation I wish to demonstrate, I have devised an instrument by means of which the first two steps above described are combined; *i. e.*, incision of (division) and elevation or separation from the matrix of the portion of the nail to be removed. By the use of this instrument the operation is simplified, and is free from the gouging and digging so characteristic of this operation as usually performed. It can also be done so quickly that an anesthetic in most cases is unnecessary.



The instrument consists of a gouge, the blades of which are set at right angles. The blades merge into a shaft which is set into a strong firm handle. The blades of the instrument are about three- to four-sixteenths of an inch wide and are very thin. The angle where the blades join is shaped so that each blade presents a

rounded end. By this construction it can be used either right or left sided.

The use of the instrument is as follows: The point of the horizontal blade is inserted under the free end of the nail so that the perpendicular blade represents the point at which the nail is to be divided. With a firm stroke the instrument is pushed under and through the nail until the same has been completely divided from free edge to root. It will be found that the nail is cut and elevated from the matrix and can be easily seized with dressing forceps. The thinness of the blades of the instrument allows it to pass between the nail and matrix with but very little pain.

